



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Harry J. Tutunjian
mavorsoffice@troyny.gov

518.270.4401
fax 518.270.4609
www.troyny.gov

Weed and Seed Program Approved for City of Troy

For Immediate Release
Contact Jeff Buell- 270-4554

(March 21, 2006- TROY)- Mayor Harry J. Tutunjian proudly announced Tuesday morning that the City of Troy has received approval from the U.S. Department of Justice for Official Recognition of its Weed and Seed Program.

Last year, the City of Troy obtained the program from Rensselaer County in an effort to allow the municipalities to strengthen Weed and Seed. During the first five years of the program, the money was spent in a concentrated area in North Central Troy. This new approval from the Department of Justice calls for the program to be expanded throughout North Central Troy, Downtown, Little Italy, and South Troy neighborhoods.

“The expansion of the Weed and Seed and subsequent approval from the Department of Justice is excellent news for all the residents of Troy,” Tutunjian said Monday. “Our staff worked extremely hard to complete this process and ensure that all of our residents will benefit from Weed and Seed in the future.”

The Weed and Seed strategy involves a two-pronged approach. First, law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers. Meanwhile, public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements. The Office of the U.S. Attorney for Northern New York will play a leadership role in the Weed and Seed initiative, coordinating federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts and collaborating with the local officials, community representatives, and other key stakeholders who form the Weed and Seed Steering Committee.

Official recognition as a Weed and Seed site carries substantive benefits. These include:

- An ability to secure Weed and Seed annual funding for a five-year period. Annual funding amounts are anticipated to range from \$175,000 - \$250,000.
- Preference in receiving discretionary grant resources from other participating federal agencies.
- Priority in participating in federally sponsored training and technical assistance.

Mayor Tutunjian thanked Congressmen Michael McNulty (D- Green Island), who pledged continued support to help the City of Troy realize its great potential.

(cont)

"The Weed & Seed program is more than just a federal grant, it is a strategy to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime and drug abuse," Congressman McNulty said. "I commend Mayor Tutunjian and his staff for their work to expand the program in the City of Troy, and I will continue to do all that I can in Congress to support their efforts."

Rensselaer County District Attorney Patricia DeAngelis complimented the City on the receipt of the designation and promised to work closely with the Troy Police Department to be sure the money from the program was spent in the areas it was needed most.

"I would like to congratulate Mayor Tutunjian and his staff on insuring that this great program will continue in the city of Troy," said DA DeAngelis. "This is a wonderful program that truly makes a difference in the lives of young people and to the community as a whole. My office plays a key role in the success of the Weed and Seed Program and I am proud to say that together with Mayor Tutunjian, Congressman McNulty, and Troy Police we are insuring a brighter future for Troy."

Mayor Tutunjian took time to personally thank Grants Writer Bill Roehr and Community Police Officer Colleen Goldston, as well as all the members of the steering committee from Troy, for their tireless work in seeing the project through to the end.

"A significant number of people volunteered and worked difficult hours to benefit the City of Troy, and that is extremely important to recognize," Tutunjian said. "It is the efforts of the steering committee, as well as Officer Goldston and Bill Roehr, that were integral in accomplishing this important goal and our thanks go out to each and every one of them."